Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190613
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 190613

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STOCKHOLM 2885 ACTION SECSTATE DATED JUL 27:

QTE: S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 2885

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US
SUBJECT: SWEDISH SALE OF VIGGEN TO INDIA

1. MFA OFFICIAL TASKED WITH ACTION ON VIGGEN CASE INFORMED POLOFF THAT INDIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO MANIFEST STRONG INTEREST IN VIGGEN. SWEDES HAVE INFORMED INDIANS OF UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER LINDER AND SECRETARY VANCE. INDIANS TELL SWEDES THEY HAVE KNOWN THE US TO CHANGE ITS MIND WHEN FACED WITH CONVINCING ARGUMENTS IN THE PAST AND ARE ASSUMING THEY HAVE YET TO HEAR FINAL WORD. THE INDIANS WILL NOT, HOWEVER, LOBBY WITH US ON BEHALF OF VIGGEN. TO DO SO, SWEDES WERE TOLD, WOULD BE "HUMILIATING" FOR INDIAN GOVERNMENT.
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PAGE 02 STATE 190613

2. SAME MFA OFFICIAL NOTED THAT LATEST FRENCH PLOY IS TO OFFER INDIANS COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, SWEDES BELIEVE THAT IN RACE BETWEEN BRITISH AND FRENCH, FRENCH ARE NOW AHEAD. MIRAGE IS SAID TO BE TECHNICALLY SUPERIOR TO JAGUAR AND FRENCH ARE OFFERING ATTRACTIVE TERMS. SWEDES BELIEVE INDIANS REGARD VIGGEN AS BEST AIRCRAFT OF THE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

THREE. SWEDES ARE ALSO TENDERING ATTRACTIVE TERMS, BUT CANNOT OF COURSE, OFFER COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR SPHERE.

3. SWEDISH STRATEGY FOF LINDER-VANCE SESSION REMAINS AS PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED; NAMELY TO PERSUADE SECRETARY OF SWEDISH RESPECT FOR SHARED PRINCIPLES REGARDING CONTROL OF ARMS TRANSFERS, THAT SWEDES ARE NOT SEEKING TO TURN THESE PRINCIPLES AROUND, AND THAT VIGGEN SALE TO INDIA WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES. LINDER WILL THEREUPON MAKE POINTS REGARDING SWEDISH AND NORDIC DEFENSE INTERESTS AT STAKE IN THE PROPOSED SALE.

4. SOURCE ADDED ONE NEW ARGUMENT TO LITANY OF SWEDISH POINTS ALREADY KNOWN TO DEPARTMENT. HE NOTED THAT US ENGINE, CONSTITUTING OUR MAJOR HOLD ON SWEDES IN THIS CASE, HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY REDESIGNED BY SWEDES FOR VIGGEN PURPOSES. SWEDES HAVE POURED OUT SOME $200 MILLION TO TAILOR ENGINE TO VIGGEN NEEDS.

5. MINISTER LINDER, TRAVELLING WITH AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER AND MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR KNUT THYBERG, WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 1, AND WILL RETURN EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2. LINDER IS ALSO SEEKING (THROUGH SWEDISH

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EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON) COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY KREPS. GENERAL OLIN OF THE DEFENSE NATIONAL BOARD WHO, IT WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTE, IS ALSO ACCOMPANYING LINDER TO WASHINGTON, WILL NOT SIT IN ON THE VANCE MEETING.
KENNEDY-MINOTT UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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